

Dear members of the Public Health Committee,

I'm writing in firm opposition to both SB 477 and HB 5397 --

SB 477 should be opposed because of Section 7

1) obtains from ANY legislative or executive department, board, commission or other agency of the state or any organization or other entity **such assistance as necessary** and available to carry out the purposes of this section. What is "necessary and available" ???

2) **FAILS TO DEFINE "other entity" , "duties", "purposes" or "other acts"**

3) **replaces yet again the Constitution's Second Amendment** with an un-elected Commission having no oversight, and allowed to make its own rules.

HB 5397 should be opposed because --

1) it **adds TWO layers of government grants and bureaucracy** to the ballooning ambiguity of "violence prevention"

2) it offers **no justifiable evidence as to WHY an Office of Gun Violence Prevention is needed** -- we have MYRIADS of quasi-government agencies involved with this problem. Admit failure and shut some of them down before creating a NEW office PLUS an Advisory Council designed to simply throw money at more organizations as a "solution"

3) **Does not address the LACK of criminal prosecution** as an INCENTIVE to commit gun violence, nor address self-defense as a valid reason for possession of a firearm.

**Neither bill will reduce gun violence;** both will allow unelected departments and commissions and offices MORE money with NO oversight. Status quo in Hartford and a Shame.

Please vote NO, or at least REMOVE Section 7 of SB 477.

Please vote NO on HB 5397 altogether. We can strengthen existing organizations and prosecute criminals instead of wasting more money and creating layers of bureaucracy.

Sincerely,

Sally Finck  
Shelton